

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were pending and considered by the Examiner. All of the pending claims stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 19 have been amended, and claims 2 and 5 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-20 remain pending.

It is noted that formal drawings were submitted and received by the Patent Office on January 8, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner refers to the informal drawings submitted with the filing of the subject application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner refer to the formal drawings in any subsequent Office Action and Notice of Allowance so that any patent issuing from the application will be printed with the formal drawings.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings indicating that the second latch component with the track component and the first latch component with the follower and vice versa must be shown in the drawings. This objection is respectfully traversed. Paragraph [37] of the subject application clearly explains that the latch components can be reversed. The description and drawings are to be read together to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention. Clearly, one of ordinary skill in the art can understand that the latch components can be easily reversed, thereby rendering additional drawings to illustrate the same unnecessary. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and remove the noted objection for the reasons noted above, and so that the Applicant is not required to incur additional costs associated with preparing and filing additional, redundant drawings.

Included herewith is a Replacement Sheet showing the change to Figure 6 as requested by the Examiner. A marked up version showing the change to Figure 6 is also included. Removal of the objection to Figure 6 is respectfully requested.

The requested changes to the specification have been made. Removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The requested change to claim 18 has been made. Removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 12-13 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 29702278 to Chang et al. (Chang). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang, and further in view of JP 11270212 to Sasaki. Claims 11 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Sasaki, and further in view of EP 982454 to Pryce. These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

First, the Examiner has improperly presented untranslated foreign references as the basis for his rejections. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a translation of the foreign references if such references are continued to be relied upon as support for a rejection of the instant claims. If the relied-upon document is in a language other than English, the M.P.E.P. mandates that "a translation must be obtained so that the record is clear as to the precise facts the Examiner is relying upon in support of the rejection". M.P.E.P. § 706.02 (emphasis added). Moreover, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences has stated that "[i]f a translation is not provided by the Examiner, the Applicant may wish to consider seeking supervisory relief by way of a petition (37 C.F.R. § 1.181) to have the Examiner directed to obtain and supply a translation." *Ex parte Jones*, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1206, 1208-09 (PTO Bd. App. 2001) (unpublished) (emphasis added). The Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner cannot solely rely on the figures (or an English abstract if one is available) to determine exactly what is or is not shown and taught by a foreign reference.

Even so, claims 1, 12 and 19 have been amended to more clearly define what it is the Applicants regard as their invention. In regards to claims 1 and 12, as best as can be determined by the undersigned, Chang seems to illustrate a follower arranged on a

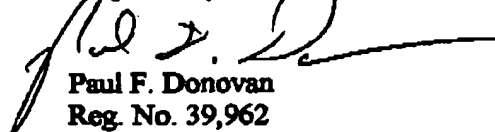
pivotably mounted lever, whereas the follower of the claimed invention is translatable transverse to the axial direction. In regards to claim 19, the follower is placed on the drawer. Since these limitations do not appear to be shown by Chang, and since there does not appear to be any teaching or suggestion in the art of record to properly modify Chang to include these limitations, claims 1, 12 and 19 are patentable thereover, taken alone or in combination. The remaining claims depend from one of claims 1, 12 and 19, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

If the Examiner continues to reject any of the claims in view of any foreign document, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide a translation thereof so that the applicants have an opportunity to fully review and understand the cited references before having to file an appeal or pursue other costly prosecution options.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed, in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone him at the number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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